

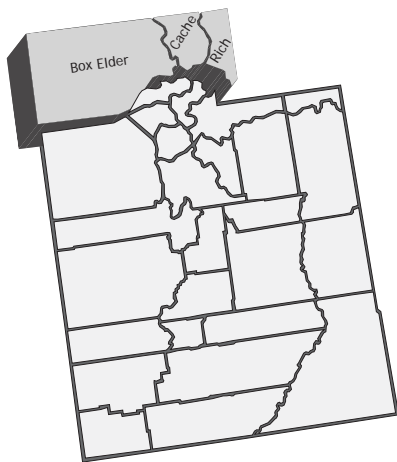
# Workforce News



A quarterly publication of the Department of Workforce Services; issued Sept, 2008

**Bear River: Box Elder, Cache, Rich**

**jobs.utah.gov**



## Wages in Northern Utah



### Inside:

- ✦ Box Elder: Strong job growth continues
- ✦ Cache: Jobs and unemployment both growing
- ✦ Rich: Construction jobs are down but building permits stay on the positive side



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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Each year the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducts a survey of some 3,500 Utah companies. At the end of May each year the results of that survey are released by the BLS and DWS. Wage information is available for five metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and for four non-MSA areas. In the Bear River region there are two releases: Logan/Franklin County MSA; and Box Elder/Rich counties.

This year's release reflects data collected in May 2007! Do you wonder why it takes so long to produce wage data? Well, May is the month we ask employers for their wage data (via a mail survey form). The data begins coming in, but there may be up to four survey mailings to employers to get their responses. Three-fourths of the firms in the sample have to respond with data to meet the requirements of the BLS. DWS analysts have to review and edit

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See the wealth of information at our Employer Resource Center Web page: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource>

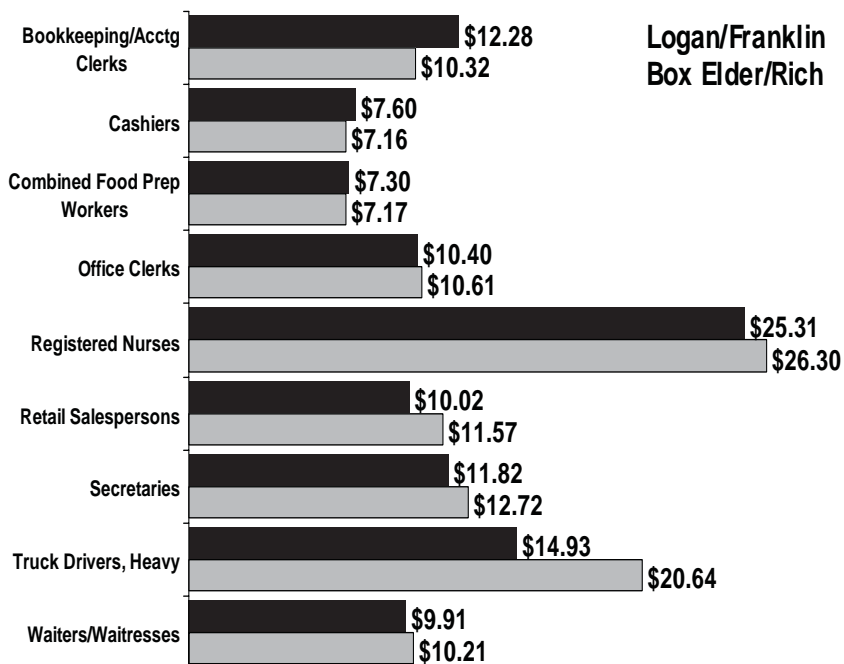
# Wages in Northern Utah

(continued)

the information after it has passed a computer screening. Respondents need to be contacted to verify information that may look questionable. The information is then transmitted to Washington D.C. for preparation of estimates. Ultimately the data is rechecked for validity and then transmitted back to the state. That's why it takes so long. Good survey work always takes time. The payoff is solid data with response rates of at least 75 percent.

The accompanying graph shows wages for the largest occupations in the two areas. But, the wage data tables and the Utah Economic Data Viewer on our website have wage information for hundreds more occupations in the two areas. Registered nurses in Logan made about \$25.31 per hour in May of 2007 with nurses in Box Elder averaging about \$26.30 per hour. That's virtually the same wage. On the other end of the wage scale, food preparation workers made about \$7.30 per hour and cashiers in retail trade averaged from \$7.16 to \$7.60 per hour. Retail sales workers were higher with about \$10.02 (Logan) and \$11.57 (Box Elder/Rich). Clerical workers were in the \$10.00

## Average Hourly Wages for Selected Occupations Logan/Franklin Co. & Box Elder/Rich County May 2007



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services.

to \$12.72 range. This included bookkeeping and accounting clerks, secretaries, and general office clerks. Heavy truck drivers averaged about \$15.00 in Logan compared to about \$20.64 per hour in the Box Elder area. The average for all workers in the scope of the survey was \$15.17 per hour in Logan/Franklin County and \$16.73 for the Box Elder/Rich counties.

Having reliable wage information in such small geographic areas

is definitely worth waiting for. Keep in mind, these wages are not guarantees, nor chiseled in stone. Expect variations from one employer to another, one area to another, one industry to another.

See the latest occupational wage rates from DWS in two ways: Wage tables at <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/regions/local.html> or through the Utah Economic Data Viewer at (<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccwage.do> )

# MotorFest

October 7 & 8, 2008

**SLCC Miller Campus  
9750 South 300 West  
Sandy, UT**

**Student tours from 8 am – 2 pm each day.**

## **MotorFest Steers Utah Students towards the Road to Success**

It is no secret; there is a serious shortage of skilled automotive and diesel technicians in Utah. It is projected that there will be over 18,000 job openings between 2006 and 2016.

Technicians are in such short supply because American teenagers and their parents mistakenly believe that the automotive industry is only an option for people with less education, limited skills, and no ambition. They think that the automotive industry offers low wages with no opportunities for a "real" career or success. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Automotive is one of Utah's fast-growing industries, offering competitive wages, state-of-the-art technical work environments, and challenging work that requires solid technical skills and in-depth post-secondary training.

MotorFest is a public/private partnership designed to provide more than 4,000 local high school and junior high school students with hands-on exposure to the diverse and exciting careers in the automotive/diesel industry.

Through interactive displays and professional demonstrations students will explore:

- Automotive, diesel, motorcycle, and small engine repair
- Collision repair
- Diesel and related occupations
- NATEF and ICAR certifications
- Internship and registered apprenticeships
- Career and training resources



Now is the time to get involved! This is your opportunity to educate students, parents and educators about today's advancing industry and help dispel old myths and stereotypes.

## **Be a Sponsor, Be an Exhibitor, Be a Volunteer.**

Visit our web site [www.uen.org/motorfest](http://www.uen.org/motorfest).

For additional information, contact Debby Nordfelt, [dnordfelt@utah.gov](mailto:dnordfelt@utah.gov), 801 526-9275.





# Workforce Development = Economic Development

## Partnerships in Action

In recent years, the Department of Workforce Services has successfully partnered with industry and education in workforce development activities and building talent pipeline initiatives. These partnerships have resulted in millions of federal dollars being brought into Utah to train current and future workers in some of Utah's fast growing industries such as advanced composites, mechatronics, biotechnology, biomanufacturing, healthcare, and energy.

New and expanding education and training programs resulting from recent partnerships include:

### Composites Materials Technology

Davis Applied Technology College  
Partners: ATK Space Systems, Hexcel, EDO Fiber Science, Radius Engineering, Technology Marketing, TCB Composites Company, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), Davis School District, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Southern Utah University, Weber State University, Hill Air Force Base and LDS Employment Resource Services

### Mechatronics

Utah Valley University  
Partners: IM Flash Technologies, Setpoint Systems Inc, Utah Manufacturing Assn., Utah County Academy of Sciences and the Provo, Alpine, Wasatch, Park City, North Summit, Nebo and South Summit School Districts

### Biotechnology/Life Sciences

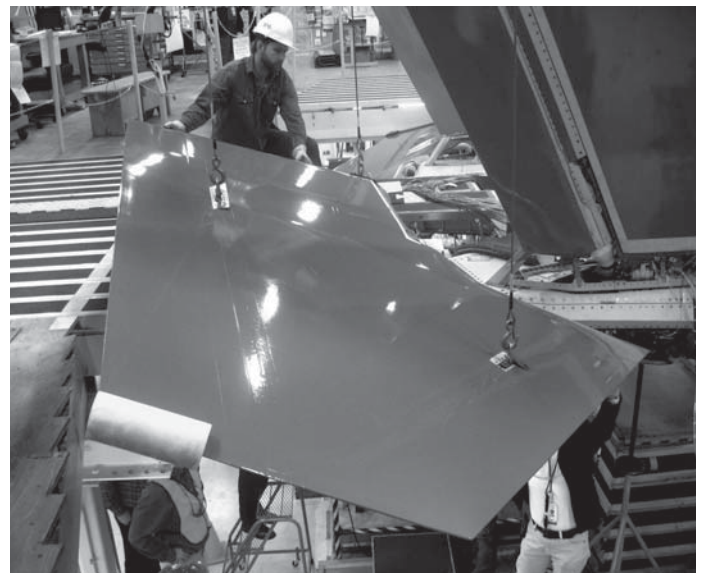
Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Partners: ZARS, Merit Medical, Cephalon, ARUP, Pharmanex, Utah Clusters Team, Utah Science, Technology, Research Initiative, Utah Centers of Excellence, U of U, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, SLCC, Utah Technology Commission, Utah Technology Advisory Council, Utah Life Science Assn, Utah Women in Technology, Intermountain Biomedical Assn, Utah Medical Manufacturing Assn, Utah Natural Products Assn, InnovaBio, National Foundation, US Army Dugway Proving Grounds, Idaho Technology, the Leonardo and the Governor's Office of Economic Development



### Biomanufacturing

Salt Lake Community College  
Granite Technical Institute  
Partners: ZARS, Cephalon Utah Natural Product Alliance, Utah Technology Commission and Utah Biomedical Assn.

A trained workforce is the key to continued economic growth in Utah. Many opportunities exist for business to partner with education to provide and upgrade the skills of Utah's workforce that will take us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. For additional information or to become a partner, contact: Lynn Purdin, 801 526-9755, [lpurdin@utah.gov](mailto:lpurdin@utah.gov), or Melisa Stark, 801 776-7240, [mstark@utah.gov](mailto:mstark@utah.gov).



# County News

## Box Elder County:

Unemployment in the county was 3.4 percent for June. Compared to March of 2007, 1,000 new jobs were created—a growth rate of 5.0 percent, much higher than the meager 1.3 percent state rate. Even with construction slowing, over 100 new construction jobs were created. Manufacturing grew by 280 new jobs. Transportation added another 200 and business services increased by 120 jobs. Healthcare increased by 145 and government 130 jobs. During the first quarter of 2008, construction permitting in the county was off by 65 percent. Total construction valuation that quarter was also down by over 60 percent. This follows the trend in other counties. On the brighter side, consumer spending, at least through fourth quarter 2007, was up by nearly 8 percent. All this mirrors what is occurring to the state's economy.

## Cache County:

Relatively strong growth continued in the county during first quarter of 2008. Unemployment held steady from May but was up from June of 2007's level of 1.9 percent. In the March 2007 to March 2008 period, some 1,600 new jobs were created in Cache County. Manufacturing led with 740 new slots. In services the gains were in trade, finance, and business services. Combined, these sectors added about 500 positions. Healthcare added 460 new jobs with state and local government each increasing 150 or more. Building activity was down. For first quarter 2008 dwelling permits numbered 55, down 61 percent from last year. Spending in the county, at least for the most current period where data was available—fourth quarter 2007—was up 5.6 percent. In sum, unemployment is creeping up but job growth is still steady.

## Rich County:

Economic activity in Rich County was seasonally slow during first quarter of 2008. Job growth was almost nonexistent with only 11 new nonfarm jobs, compared the first quarter of 2007. The growth rate was still positive at 1.8 percent. Construction was off by 20 jobs compared to last year and only the leisure and hospitality industry showed even a slight (20 jobs) increase. Rich County was one of only a few in the state that didn't have a negative percent change in new dwelling permits. Total dollar valuation, however, did drop by 30 percent from a year ago. Unemployment in June was 2.2 percent—one of the lowest in the state.

For more employment information about your county go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do> and select your county, then go to Labor Market Indicators in the right-hand margin.

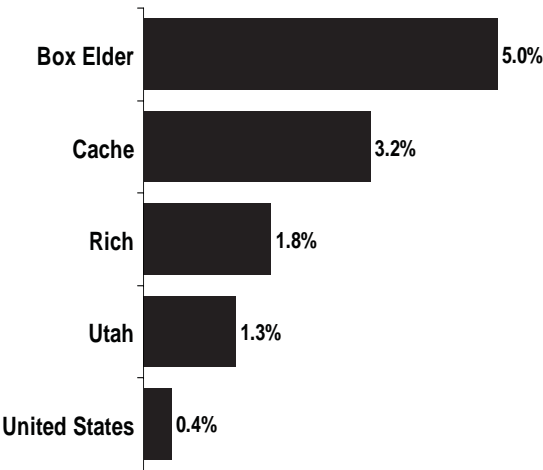
## What's Up?

✦ On a 725-acre spread near Bear River City, one of the world's largest companies has started work on a one-million-square-foot paper products plant. Local leaders and executives from Procter & Gamble Co. broke ground on a facility at 5000 N 6800 West that will initially employ 300 in the production of Bounty paper towels and Charmin toilet paper when it opens in 2010.  
- *Standard Examiner*

✦ It's been three years in the making, but Wal-Mart is finally making some movements within its South Main Logan location. An Idaho Falls-based contractor will oversee the project, which a Wal-Mart spokeswoman said should last between 10 and 12 months. At 176,000 square feet, the Wal-Mart Supercenter is slated to sit on the northeast corner of the property bordered by 1200 South and the old Maceys building, which is also under construction.  
- *Herald Journal*

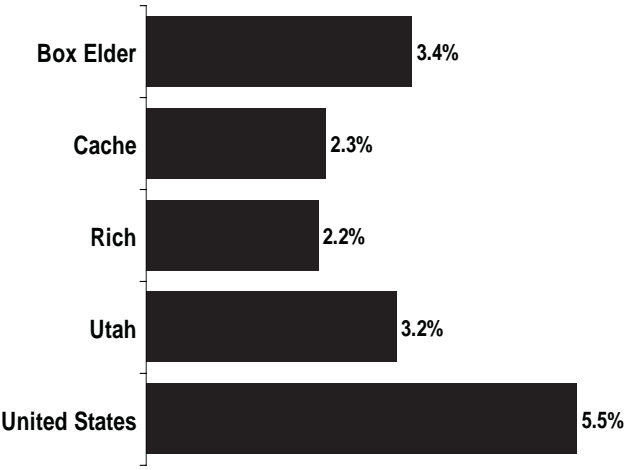
✦ The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission suspended a controversial proposal to build a hydro-electric power plant in Bear Lake's Hook Canyon.  
- *Deseret News*

**Change in Bear River Nonfarm  
Jobs March 2007 to March 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate  
Bear River June 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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